<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend Claims 40, 41, 59, 61, 62, 62, 74, 75, and 83-86 as follows.

1.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determination means for determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein the band is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

23. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determination means for determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein a width of the band can be changed in the output requested image, and the band width is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

24. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said band width is set by judging whether said predetermined area does not overlap the band boundary.

25.-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

first judgment means for judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and

second judgment means for, when as a result of judgment by said first judgment means the drawing data is said determined to be image data, judging for each of one or more predetermined areas whether or not the image data includes information indicating a judgment object image,

wherein said image data is judged per band, and the band is set in such a manner that a predetermined area for which judging is being performed does not form a boundary of the band.

41. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

first judgment means for judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and

second judgment means for, when as a result of judgment by said first judgment

means the drawing data is ~~said~~ determined to be image data, judging for each of one or more

predetermined areas whether or not the image data includes information indicating a judgment

object image,

wherein said image data is judged per band, a width of the band can be changed in

an output requested image, and the band width is set in such a manner that a predetermined area

for which judging is being performed does not form a boundary of the band.

42. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein

said band width is set by judging whether the predetermined area does not overlap the band

boundary.

43.-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22,

wherein the judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities, or other images that

are prohibited by law from being printed.

48. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible digital watermark.

49. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

50. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically embedded in the judgment object image.

51. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said predetermined area is an area necessary for judgment of said judgment object image.

52. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein when the output requested image is judged for each predetermined distance, the predetermined distance is determined in such a manner that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.

53. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein when there are a plurality of judgment object images, the determination means determines a minimum distance among the predetermined distances for the plurality of judgment object image as the predetermined distance.

54. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said predetermined distance is determined also by considering that the judgment object image rotates.

55. (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising:

a judgment step of judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

a determination step of determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein the band is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

56. (Previously Presented) A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program for causing a computer to execute an image processing method comprising:

a judgment step of judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

a determination step of determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein the band is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

57. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities, or other images that are prohibited by law from being printed.

58. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible digital watermark.

59. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said second judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

60. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically embedded in the

judgment object image, and the predetermined area is an area including at least one piece of the information indicating the judgment object image.

61. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein when said image data comprises an image with a small number of colors, said <u>second</u> judgment means does not perform the judgment.

62. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein when as the result of the judgment by said <u>first</u> judgment means the drawing data is not the image data, said <u>second</u> judgment means does not perform the judgment.

63. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein when it is judged as said judgment result that the judgment object image is included, any one of a processing of discontinuing output of an output requested image, a processing of changing the output requested image to another image and outputting the image, and a processing of informing that the output is impossible is performed.

64. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said judgment is performed for each predetermined area of the image data, and the predetermined area is determined for each predetermined distance of the image data.

65. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 64, wherein when the image data is judged for each predetermined area, the predetermined distance is determined in such a manner that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.

66. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 64, wherein when there are a plurality of judgment object images, a minimum distance among the predetermined distances for the plurality of judgment object images is determined as the predetermined distance.

67. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 64, wherein said predetermined distance is determined also by considering that the judgment object image rotates.

68. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said judgment is performed after the image data constituting a band is synthesized.

69. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein when said synthesized image data is smaller than the judgment object image, said judgment is not performed.

70. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein the judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities, or other images that are prohibited by law from being printed.

71. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according Claim 41, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible digital watermark.

72. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein said second judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

73. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically embedded in the judgment object image, and the predetermined area is an area including at least one piece of the information indicating the judgment object image.

74. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein when said image data comprises an image with a small number of colors, said second judgment means does not perform the judgment.

75. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein when as the result of the judgment by said first judgment means the drawing data is not the image data, said second judgment means does not perform the judgment.

76. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein when it is judged as said judgment result that the judgment object image is included, any one of a processing of discontinuing output of an output requested image, a processing of changing the output requested image to another image and outputting the image, and a processing of informing that the output is impossible is performed.

77. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein said judgment is performed for each predetermined area of the image data, and the predetermined area is determined for each predetermined distance of the image data.

78. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein when the image data is judged for each predetermined area, the predetermined distance is determined in such a manner that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.

79. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein when there are a plurality of judgment object images, a minimum distance among the

predetermined distances for the plurality of judgment object images is determined as the

predetermined distance.

80. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 77,

wherein said predetermined distance is determined also by considering that the judgment object

image rotates.

81. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 41,

wherein said judgment is performed after the image data constituting a band is synthesized.

82. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 81,

wherein when said synthesized image data is smaller than the judgment object image, said

judgment is not performed.

83. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

a first judgment step of judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and

a second judgment step of, when as a result of judgment in said above first

judgment step the drawing data is said determined to be image data, judging for each of one or

more predetermined areas whether or not the image data includes information indicating a

judgment object image,

wherein said image data is judged per band, and the band is set in such a manner that a predetermined area <u>for which judging is being performed</u> does not form a boundary of the band.

84. (Currently Amended) A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program for causing a computer to execute an image processing method comprising:

a <u>first</u> judgment step of judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and

a <u>second</u> judgment step of, when as a result judgment in said ~~above~~ <u>first</u> judgment step the drawing data is ~~said~~ <u>determined to be</u> image data, judging <u>for each of one or more predetermined areas</u> whether or not the image data includes information indicating a judgment object image,

wherein said image data is judged per band, and the band is set in such a manner that a predetermined area <u>for which judging is being performed</u> does not form a boundary of the band.

85. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

a <u>first</u> judgment step of judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and

a <u>second</u> judgment step of, when as a result of judgment in said ~~above~~ <u>first</u> judgment step the drawing data is ~~said~~ <u>determined to be</u> image data, judging <u>for each of one or more predetermined areas</u> whether or not the image data includes information indicating a judgment object image,

wherein said image data is judged per band, a width of the band can be changed in

an output requested image, and the band width is set in such a manner that a predetermined area

for which judging is being performed does not form a boundary of the band.

86. (Currently Amended) A storage medium which computer-readably stores a

program for causing a computer to execute an image processing method comprising:

a first judgment step of judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and

a second judgment step of, when as a result of judgment in said ~~above~~ first

judgment step the drawing data is ~~said~~ determined to be image data, judging for each of one or

more predetermined areas whether or not the image data includes information indicating a

judgment object image,

wherein said image data is judged per band, a width of the band can be changed in

an output requested image, and the band width is set in such a manner that a predetermined area

for which judging is being performed does not form a boundary of the band.